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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Eleanor Zurbrigg

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on club activities.

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Membership application, correspondence :
THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB
Box 35069, Westgate P.O.
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1A2

Information:
(613) 722-3050
After 10 a.m.

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

Ruth Berzel
Dave Black
Joan Brown & family
Brenda Carter
Graham & Lena Creedy
Barry Deevey
Dan Ferry
Pam Fitzgerald & family
David George & family
Jacqueline & Larry Goldstein
Steve Gribble
Jan & Maria Heynen
Angela Hartmann
Yvonne Hunt & Hugh Thompson

Gregory Hutton
Charles Lamarche
Monty Lasserre & family
Malcolm Leith & family
Pat Letourneau & Bert Barry
Maria MacRae
Karen Palmer
Kevin Pottie & family
The Robin Easey Centre
Sarah Shepard
Carrie Spencer
Cathy Ternan
Jeanne White
John Yuen



*Ross' Goose with Snow Geese
Winchester Sewage Lagoon
October 30, 1999*

Dave Smythe
Membership Committee
August 2000

A Tribute to Clarrie: Clarence Frankton (1906-2000)

Daniel F. Brunton



Clarrie Frankton, recipient of the Anne Hanes Natural History Award, with Enid at his side, Soirée, April 1987. Photo by D. Brunton.

With the passing of Clarence ("Clarrie") Frankton on 11 June, 2000, we lost the dean of field naturalists in the National Capital Region – and a great friend of the natural world. Clarrie had been a mainstay of the naturalist community for over 50 years. His many contributions to the OFNC had been a major reason the Club awarded him an Honorary Membership in 1980. Other reasons were his achievements as a botanical research scientist, specializing in the study of weed species with Agriculture Canada (to be detailed in a forthcoming, more formal obituary in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist*).

In addition to the applied focus of his professional studies, Clarrie developed an astonishingly wide range of floristic and faunal expertise which he used locally to great effect. He was a tenacious field man, working over a site with

seemingly infinite patience, spotting all but invisible variations in plant life and the landscape. Stony Swamp, Shirleys Bay, Crystal Bay Forest, Pinhey Forest and Arlington – Bell Woods in the western Greenbelt, and the South March Highlands in adjacent Kanata, received particularly close scrutiny. He also knew intimately parts of Gatineau Park, the Regional Forest, Baxter Conservation Area and the G. Howard Ferguson Forestry Station near Kemptville.

After his retirement in 1970, Clarrie's most favoured field location was the Britannia Conservation Area (Mud Lake). Here, not far from his home in the west end of Ottawa, he left not a leaf unturned. Mud Lake offered interesting botanizing, the opportunity to socialize with naturalists and walkers serendipitously encountered, and was a fine place to give the dog (*always* a West Highland White terrier) a good run.

In the course of such careful – some might say excruciatingly careful – examinations, Clarrie contributed enormously to our knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Region, discovering dozens of species previously unknown from the Ottawa area. He received the Anne Hanes Natural History Award for 1986 in recognition of these achievements.

Most knew Clarrie as a botanist, but he was also an all-round naturalist, and his primary faunistic interest was birds. He co-ordinated the Ottawa Christmas Bird Counts in west end Ottawa for many years in the 1950s and 1960s and gained the reputation, amongst that talented crew of mid-century Ottawa area field ornithologists (including Doug Savile, Walton Groves and of course, Earl Godfrey), as being a skilled and reliable observer. As in botanical matters, he was quick to encourage and support the participation of newcomers in the Counts. Clarrie was always conscious of the continuing need to bring along new troops, so to speak, in our never-ending campaign of ecological discovery.

He was, above all else, intensely curious. He had remarkably eclectic intellectual tastes and adored the pursuit of new knowledge in any of them. Mathematics, for example, was a real passion; curling up with an exciting(!?) volume of complex mathematic theory was Clarrie's idea of a good evening's read.

When not in the field, Clarrie was most often to be found perched in *The Chair* at home. It was a throne-like arrangement in one corner of the living room with a huge mound of papers and books carefully placed around him like a palisade. Woe betide the well-meaning soul who might think to move some item or two and thus disrupt the apparent cosmic (or was that comic ?) balance of these archives!

Not many folks knew that Clarrie was also passionate about track and field. Indeed, he was a nationally ranked long-distance runner during the 1930s with

a remarkable trove of trophies, medals, ribbons and clippings as proof. This was a year-round passion too, with snowshoe racing taking over during the winter months. Indeed, Clarrie was a World Champion snowshoe racer in several long distance categories in that era – a fact I learned painfully, as a young fellow one winter's day, *after* Clarrie had let me go on for some time explaining the finer details of snowshoeing from the 'wisdom' gained during several days experience with newly acquired Canadian Tire specials! (Did I mention his wry sense of humour?).

Clarrie was usually an attentive and stimulating conversationalist, but there was no hope of such communications during the summer Olympics or other major track and field meets.

Clarrie's buoyant enthusiasm, burning curiosity, deep respect for knowledge and a strong conviction about making a positive difference in the world, were infectious. He was living proof of what one individual can do. The ecological information he gathered and *carefully documented* has proven to be immensely important in the successful protection of significant natural areas in and around the National Capital Region, ranging from Gatineau Park, to the Greenbelt lands, and to the South March Highlands. Many people working in Canadian natural sciences today – myself included – are happy to acknowledge the huge debt owed to Clarrie for helping us onto and along that path.

Most paths, though, are best shared. Clarrie realized probably his wisest and most important achievement in May 1948, when he convinced Enid (Patterson) to share his. An accomplished field naturalist in her own right, Enid shared Clarrie's long and winding path for over 50 years. Enid also shares a good measure of the credit for many an important discovery or conservation achievement. Clarrie always referred to her as "*my small things expert*." Her keen botanical eye was particularly in demand for the finding of such notoriously difficult plants to spot as Adder's-tongue Fern. Few indeed were the days between 1970 and 1999 that Clarrie and Enid were not in the field together, *somewhere* in the National Capital Region, always searching, always learning.

Clarrie enjoyed – and that is certainly the right word for it – 94 full, productive years. He was in good health and tremendous spirits until shortly before his death. Last May, he was unable to get about on his own any more, but he asked (instructed!?) Enid to collect a sample of a particular shrub they had noted the previous fall at Britannia, and over which we had debated throughout the winter. Sure enough, it was what he had thought it to be, adding one final species (#577) to the remarkably lengthy list to which he had contributed so much. And he announced it, I might add, with a flourish and almost a devilish 'I-told-you-so' look. Still learning, still looking forward ... *still teaching*.

One cannot be sad for Clarrie. Where do we sign to assure ourselves such a long, productive and fulfilled life? It is sad for *us*, however, to no longer have such a positive force and role model to challenge and encourage us. This truly is the passing of an era. Nonetheless, it has been of real consolation to Enid, and daughter Gwen, to realize how greatly Clarrie's contributions and inspiration are valued and appreciated by his fellow naturalists both within and beyond the OFNC¹.

¹The family has suggested that those wishing to make a charitable donation in Clarrie's memory, contribute to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (400 - 110 Eglinton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1A3). Clarrie was a long-term supporter of the objectives and achievements of this important national conservation organization.



*Northern Wheatear, rare bird sighting at Britannia Beach, October 11-12, 1995.
Drawing by Chris Lewis. ▢*

Conservation Matters

Stan Rosenbaum

Alfred Bog

At an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing due to take place this autumn, the United Counties of Prescott-Russell will be defending new by-laws that are aimed at preserving Alfred Bog from being damaged by peat extraction on adjoining lands. The OFNC requested and received Participant status at these hearings. The main threat to the bog arises from drainage which is part of the extraction process. This threat is made more serious by the fact that in Ontario there is at present no Government regulation of peat extraction. The Conservation Committee would prefer all peat extraction to be regulated, and not permitted at all in or around such internationally significant wetlands as Alfred Bog.

Leitrim Wetlands

The immediate problem is a motion that was passed by Regional Council in June, approving the allocation of substantial funds (about \$6M) for infrastructure development – installation of services for the proposed subdivision as well as for neighbouring communities – **before** various environmental studies are complete. These studies include a mandatory assessment by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) of the effects of drainage on fish habitat in Findlay Creek, which passes through the wetland. We have written, therefore, to Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli, proposing that no further commitments should be made by the outgoing Regional Government that would compromise the new City in 2001. We also reminded Mr. Chiarelli of a statement he made in a news interview, as part of his vision for a future expansion of the Greenbelt, that the Leitrim Wetland is a candidate for preservation.

Goulbourn Township housing subdivisions

At least one proposed housing development site in the Stittsville area of Goulbourn Township appears to be encroaching on wetlands. The Conservation Committee is asking the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources whether the rules for classification of wetlands have been altered, with the effect of reducing the number of wetlands that qualify to be protected as provincially significant. We expressed concern that the rules may be getting bent to meet an increased demand for housing.

Species At Risk Act (SARA)

Last April, the Federal Government introduced Bill C-33, the Species At Risk Act (SARA). It is due to receive detailed review in the Committee stage when Parliament resumes in the fall (if a general election isn't called instead). The Endangered Species Campaign, spearheaded by the Canadian Nature Federation, says that Bill C-33 needs to be improved. Stewart Elgie of Sierra Legal Defence Fund says "It is weaker than that of almost every province which has endangered species legislation." Sarah Dover, Director of the Campaign, said, "We really don't want to tell (Canadians) that the Liberal Party broke one of their best known promises – but we will if we have to." The government is hearing a lot of opposition from industry, aboriginal groups and the provinces to even this weak Bill. The Federal Government really needs is to hear (once again) support for a Species At Risk Act from people like you! Background information is available on the CNF web site at:

http://www.cnf.ca/species_main.html

Greenspace protection

While protection of wetlands, forests and local parks may have been strengthened as a result of being identified in the City of Ottawa Natural and Open Spaces Study (NOSS), other green spaces within the present City of Ottawa seem to have been opened up for development, as is already the case in surrounding municipalities. This is the central theme of a series of issues being addressed by the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital (GACC). These include part of Carleton Woods on the Carleton University campus, and a wooded ravine site on Sawmill Creek in Gloucester.

Western Greenbelt – deer populations

The NCC has released a consultant's report called "The Status of Deer Herds in the Western Greenbelt of the National Capital and Recommendations for their Management." The study reported "... large and growing deer herds in Harwood Plains (including Shirleys Bay), South March and Stony Swamp." The number of deer (per square km) in these three areas were estimated at 33, 17, and 18 respectively, and increasing. Recommendations in the report include: to remove the Crown Game Reserve status for the Shirleys Bay area, and to reduce or stabilize current numbers by herd control (archery and shotguns). Each of these recommendations, if implemented, could have serious implications. The Conservation Committee has not had an opportunity yet to discuss the report, and NCC has stated that the report does not at this time reflect official policy. ▢

Ottawa District Public Bird Feeders – Thirty Years and Counting

Derek Munro



*Original Jack Pine Trail feeder, January 1972
(note the bird illustrations provided by Brian Morin).*

Thirty years ago the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club (OFNC) sponsored the first of many public bird feeder stations in the Ottawa/Hull area. This is a story of devoted and enthusiastic volunteers, OFNC council members willing to support new ideas, and environmental education for a generation of bird feeder visitors.

Jack Pine Trail Feeder (1969)

I believe it was Ron Pittaway who first suggested that a bird feeding station be sponsored by the OFNC. He donated a feeder, given to him by Molly Bourguignon, for an initial test. I decided to try the west side of Moodie Drive in 1969 because it was near my home (ironically, about where the Wild Bird Care Center is today). The feeder was stocked with seed and suet and a list was

kept of visiting birds (which included a Barred Owl). These promising results were presented to the December 1969 council meeting of the Club.

Council agreed to support this venture and allocated \$50 for bird seed. With the permission of what was then known as the Ontario Department of Lands & Forests Greenbelt Headquarters (courtesy of Mr. Alf Gowdy, Chief Ranger), the first official bird feeding station was set up in Nepean at the Jack Pine Trail on Moodie Drive, on 26 December 1969, by Ron Pittaway, Stephen Wragg and myself (Munro 1970). With little advertising, hundreds of people visited the bird-feeding station that first winter. A Boreal Chickadee was seen near the feeders. A log book was provided on 8 February, 1970, for visitors to record their observations. John Kelly and Brian Morin were listed as contacts for any questions regarding feeder operations. Brian Morin created drawings of common birds for an on-site exhibit. Bruce MacTavish and Mike McKie entered the first log entry, a Three-toed Woodpecker, on Valentine's Day.

It quickly became apparent that the bird feeder attracted bird watchers and non-bird watchers alike (Munro 1971). Hundreds of visitors walked around the nature trails and were introduced to other natural wonders. By the second year of operations the bird feeding station had achieved definite educational value as a regular excursion for local school groups arriving in the ubiquitous yellow school buses.

In the third year of the Jack Pine Trail feeders (1971-72), I went off to the University of Guelph. My parents Hazel & Hugh Munro, who had helped me stock the feeders previously, took over full time for the next several years (until the end of the 1977-78 winter season).

Davidson Road Feeder (1970, officially sponsored in 1972)

In the article announcing the first feeder (Munro 1970), I suggested setting up a second feeder in Ottawa's east end. The Club funded a test feeder, during the winters of 1970-71 and 1971-72, on Davidson Road, run by George McGee and later joined by Bill Holland (McGee 1972). The Davidson Road feeder became an official OFNC bird feeding station in the fall of 1972 at the "Pine Grove Picnic Site" run by what is now known as the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (thanks again to Mr. Alf Gowdy, Chief Ranger). In his article, George mentioned the importance of volunteers who maintain the feeders and donate seed. He also mentioned the publicity given the feeder by the well-known bird columnists Wilf Bell (*The Ottawa Citizen*) and John Bird (remember the *The Ottawa Journal*?).

Birds Records Committee (1971)

In the same time period there was revitalized interest in keeping accurate re-

cords of bird sightings in the Ottawa area. In the autumn of 1971 the Bird Records Committee was formed (replacing the older Bird Census Committee).

Bird Feeder Committee (1973)

Like many ideas, this one too became a "victim" of its own success. Now with the OFNC supporting two bird feeding stations, the Club needed new ways of funding the seed devoured by the ever-increasing numbers of birds visiting these feeders. In 1973 the Bird Feeder Committee was created to meet this challenge (Humphreys 1973).

By 1975 the two original feeding stations were very well known by both birders and non-birders. Both areas had well-developed trail systems and were used winter and summer by outdoor enthusiasts, and the bird feeders were an added attraction. George McGee commented on the increased use of the trails at Davidson Road by individuals, families and other groups (McGee 1975).



West meets East: Hugh Munro (left) of the Jack Pine Trail feeder and George McGee of the Davidson Road feeder look after an injured Great Horned Owl in 1975.

Pink Road Feeder (1976)

In autumn, 1976, John Dubois convinced the OFNC to sponsor a third bird feeding station near Aylmer, Quebec, off Pink Road. Council allocated \$125 towards the project (Dubois 1977). This station was on private land, with the permission of Mr. Lonnie Moore and the support of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Moore. This feeding station would become one of the most interesting for bird watchers because of its proximity to the Gatineau Hills and interesting boreal

species such as Gray Jays. It would grow through the years to have nearly 50 feeders!

It was also in December of 1976 that the "famous" Boreal Owl showed up near the Jack Pine Trail feeder. Both Bruce Di Labio and myself remember that bird as a "lifer" (first sighting for a birder). It was seen by many others at the time.

All three feeding stations were very popular. Vi Humphreys (1977) wrote, "We are extremely indebted to these dedicated and hard working members" who volunteered their efforts. This was the last year that Hazel & Hugh Munro looked after the Jack Pine Trail feeders. George McGee and Bill Holland still looked after the Davidson Road feeders and John Dubois maintained the Pink Road feeders. Vi Humphreys mentioned several other volunteers who helped, including Dr. W. Earl Godfrey (former Curator of Ornithology and author of "The Birds of Canada").

Bruce Di Labio related his memories of the first record of a Varied Thrush for the Ottawa Region, which was seen near the Jack Pine Trail feeder in November 1977. Bruce was in Guelph at the time he learned about the presence of this bird. He jumped in his car, arrived late at the parking lot of the Jack Pine Trail, and slept in his car that night. In the morning he was rewarded with a new "lifer" when he saw the Varied Thrush. That was dedication.

Anderson Road Feeder (1978)

A fourth feeding station was added to the list, autumn 1970, at the Geomagnetic Laboratory on Anderson Road, close to Dolman Ridge Road in east Ottawa (Taylor 1978). This area was well known for interesting bird watching. Two years later the feeding station was moved to the other side of Anderson Road, south of Dolman Ridge Road (Anonymous 1980). This feeder was no longer sponsored by 1983.

Birds Committee (1980)

In 1980 Don Lafontaine proposed a Birds Committee which combined the Rare Birds Committee (renamed the Bird Records Subcommittee) and the renamed Bird Feeders Subcommittee. Bernie Ladouceur remembers that this reorganization provided a wider scope for bird interests in the OFNC because more people could be drawn upon to look after bird feeders, bird counts, etc. Dan Brunton became the first chairman of this new committee.

The Seedathon (1981)

With four active feeding stations the OFNC spent \$1,100 during the 1980-81 winter season. This was money well spent, but for a charitable organization it was a significant amount (Anonymous 1981). Bernie Ladouceur said that in

1981, during a Birds Committee meeting, Dan Brunton and Loney Dickson came up with the idea of a "seed-a-thon" (now called a seedathon) whereby birders would get sponsored per bird species recorded. Dan Brunton remembers that the concept was based on "walk-a-thons" that were common at the time. The first seedathon was run on Sunday, 13 September, 1981, with two teams soliciting sponsors (Team A: Bruce Di Labio and Jim Harris; Team B: Roger Taylor, Dan Brunton and Bernie Ladouceur). The money was first to be spent on bird seed, with any surplus going towards feeder maintenance and establishment of the "Bird Hot-line" (which is still available). The first seedathon raised over \$600 with Team A logging 125 species and Team B, 104 species (Ladouceur & Di Labio 1981). The seedathon continued to be very successful through the years earning an amazing \$1500-\$2000 in 1986 (Levine 1987).

By the winter of 1983-84 the OFNC was supporting only three feeders (Anderson Road feeders were dropped). The National Capital Commission (NCC) operated a winter feeder at the Mer Bleue Interpretation Center on Dolman Ridge Road (Reddoch 1983).

Rockcliffe Park Feeder (1984)

In the 1984-85 winter season, a new feeder was started in Rockcliffe Park, below the rockeries near the tennis courts and across from the Ottawa Rowing Club. This feeder was manned by Stephen Darbyshire for two seasons. It was moved (1986-87) to the west side of Hillsdale Road near the end of Sandridge Road (Rockcliffe Park) because, at the original site, there were fewer birds, and the parking area was not always plowed (Anonymous 1987).

Hazeldean Woods Feeder (1985)

During the 1985-86 winter season the OFNC sponsored five winter feeding stations (Pringle 1986a). The fifth station was added at Hazeldean Woods in Kanata in the city park, off Kakulu Road. The Rockcliffe Park feeder was manned for another year below the rockeries near the tennis courts. Club volunteers were also involved with manning the NCC feeder on the Dolman Ridge Road in the Mer Bleue. (This feeding station was in danger of closing because the interpretation centre was no longer staffed.) At the Jack Pine Trail and Davidson Road feeders it was business as usual. (The Pink Road feeder near Aylmer was manned and partly stocked by the Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais.) Thanks to the seedathons, the Bird Feeder Subcommittee was now purchasing bulk orders of one tonne of sunflower seed and several hundred kilograms of wild bird mixture each autumn.

The Sixth Annual Seedathon was held on 7 September 1986 (Di Labio & Pringle 1986). In addition to the usual team that drove by car, Gordon Pringle

competed in a wheelchair hoping to attract additional outside support. Team A (Bruce Di Labio, Richard Brouillet, Bernie Ladouceur) drove 435 km, from 3 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and saw 129 species. Team B (Gordon Pringle in the wheelchair, plus Tom Hanrahan) traveled 5.6 km from Ottawa Beach to Stillwater Park, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and observed 64 species. Not bad considering Team B traveled 339 km less than Team A but saw half as many species!

Gordon Pringle (1986b) described 15 different public bird feeders in the Ottawa area. The five feeders manned by the OFNC as mentioned above, plus the Mer Bleue feeder with seed provided by the NCC but manned by Daniel Perrier of the OFNC. The rest of the feeders were variously sponsored by the NCC, Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais, and the Ottawa Duck Club.

Stony Swamp Feeder (1987)

For a couple of years, the NCC had provided a feeder and seed at Stony Swamp Conservation Area (at the Interpretation Centre between Moodie Drive and Richmond Road and near my original test feeder of 1969). By the winter of 1987-88, OFNC members were stocking this feeder as volunteers (Anonymous 1988).

Montreal Road Feeder (1987)

That same winter the Rockcliffe feeder on Hillsdale Road was moved to the National Research Council lands south of Montreal Road near the Bathgate entrance (Perrier 1987). The next winter this feeder was moved again, to the west side of Pavillion F in the Carson Centre (Pringle 1989). One wonders, were the birds able to follow this feeder around each winter?

The 1990-91 winter season saw the OFNC sponsoring four area feeders as well as the two feeders maintained in conjunction with the NCC. The Montreal Road Feeder was moved back to where it had been, near Bathgate Road (Perrier 1991).

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Feeder (1992)

During the 1992-1993 winter season the Montreal Road feeder was moved to the Fletcher Wildlife Garden on the Central Experimental Farm (Romanow 1993). (Presumably the Montreal Road birds did not make the move as well.) The other feeders were Davidson Road, Jack Pine Trail, Pink Road (in conjunction with Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais), and the Mer Bleue feeder manned by Lee Cairnie and partly supported by the NCC. During the annual autumn seedathon (September 1992), Gordon Pringle and Tony Beck raised over \$500 towards seed money.

Volunteers

"Urgently Needed" was the title of an article in early 1994 requesting new volun-

teers to look after the Davidson Road bird feeder (Anonymous 1994). Bill and Donna Miller, who had looked after this feeder, were moving. In addition to weekly trips to replenish the feeders, the prospective volunteers would "need a 30-ft ladder to install the feeder and to take it down at the end of the season."



Hugh Munro in 1977 with sunflower seed bag at Jack Pine Trail, educating visitors.

The topic of "volunteers" was featured again later that year in *T&L*. Daniel Perrier, chair of the Bird Feeders Subcommittee, was responsible for the purchase of the seed and the recruitment of people to fill the feeders. The OFNC feeders now required an average of 2 tonnes of seed each year. That year Bill Millen was still maintaining the Jack Pine Trail feeder (for over 14 years), Warren Kingsbury looked after Davidson Road, Lee Cairnie stocked Mer Bleue (seed no longer provided by the NCC), Sandra Garland took care of the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, and Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais (Daniel St-Hilaire and friends) stocked Pink Road feeders (half the seed provided by the OFNC). Mention was made of Bill Holland and George McGee who had looked after the Davidson Road feeders until their deaths, followed by Bill and Donna Miller, then Warren Kingsbury. The success of the seedathon was mentioned, especially the consistent bird spotting of Bruce Di Labio and Gordon Pringle (Ladouceur and Perrier 1994).

Five bird feeders were sponsored over the 1994-95 winter. Kathy Nihei and the Wild Bird Care Centre donated 30 large bags of seed to the Club that winter (Beck 1995).

The Ice Storm of the Century (1998)

In the autumn of 1997 the OFNC bird feeder on Dolman Ridge, Mer Bleue, was relocated to Dewberry Trail on the south side of the road (Cairnie 1997). That winter the Jack Pine Trail bird feeder was moved a short distance (Huemer 1998). Then the Ice Storm of January 1998 hit eastern North America. Roy Millen chipped "tons of ice" from the top of the feeder at the Jack Pine Trail, and a week later, he and Gerry Millen found "utter devastation." The feeder had been knocked to the ground when a nearby tree split in two. Over the next few days a series of repairs were made to the delight of the local birds. Roy noted ironically that no trees fell where the feeder had been previously located (Millen 1998).

The Pink Road feeder station on the Moore family property since 1976 was moved in the autumn of 1998 (partly because of ice storm damage) to the new Natural Heritage Building, Canadian Museum of Nature, 1740 Pink Road. This continues to be manned by Le Club des Ornithologues de l'Outaouais with partial funding by the OFNC (St-Hilaire 1999).

Thirty years and counting

Thirty years later the OFNC sponsors four feeding stations, at Jack Pine Trail, Davidson Road, Mer Bleue and Fletcher Wildlife Garden, and co-sponsors the Pink Road feeders at the Natural Heritage Building. These feeders have survived because volunteers have tirelessly (and occasionally with some risk as during the ice storm) maintained the feeders, adding seed weekly. There has been an effort to make the feeders accessible to all people. Sponsors of the annual seedathon have provided thousands of dollars towards bird seed since 1981. Special mention must be made of Bruce Di Labio (primary seedathon birder in the 1980s) and Gordon Pringle (in the 1990s). The seedathon was not run in 1999 but is expected to happen in September 2000.

Take a walk on the Jack Pine Trail today. The OFNC feeding station is still there each winter, feeding the birds. In addition enthusiasts have put up dozens of "volunteer" feeders along the trails made out of various containers. Dan Brunton noted that these have reduced the concentration of birds around the OFNC feeder, and although installed with the best of intentions, are an unreliable source of food for woodland birds and some are unsightly. Many birds at the Jack Pine Trail will feed out of your hand.

The first feeder was started mainly to increase public awareness of the natural world. A generation later it is very satisfying to see the children of those first youthful visitors now enjoying the feeders. Kudos to the 1969/1970 Council of the OFNC for taking that chance on the first bird feeding station and on the enthusiasm of some young birders. The benefits in public awareness of the outdoors and appreciation of nature and conservation are incalculable.

There have been changes in birds species (and populations) over the last thirty years. Twenty years ago, Evening Grosbeaks (affectionately called "Flying pigs") were very common at feeders, and Bruce Di Labio remembers seeing Clay-colored Sparrows at the Jack Pine Trail then. These sparrows are seen no more as the Jack Pine trees are now 30-40 feet tall and the habitat has changed. As the region becomes more urbanized there has been increasing loss of habitat. Common species of today (House Finch, Cardinal) were almost unknown thirty years ago, a subject for another article.

Gordon Pringle (1986b) wrote: "Who knows how many children will always remember the delight of hand-feeding a tame chickadee or nuthatch at this popular feeder. There is usually a Barred Owl hidden in the surrounding woods or occasionally perched in the open. Ottawa's first Varied Thrush appeared here some years ago and more recently a Boreal Owl..."

Another attraction were the flying squirrels. Don Lafontaine and I remembered the delight of seeing these animals after dark. Dan Brunton took CBC radio reporter John Lacharity (now cohost of CBO Morning) to see the flying squirrels, which right on queue appeared in their nest hole when Dan tapped on the tree. There are similarly interesting stories from other bird feeding stations.

Another quote sums it up best (Ladouceur & Perrier 1994): "Volunteers make OFNC feeders work once again, thanks."

I want to thank the following for their recollections on the thirty-year history of the OFNC feeders: Stephen Darbyshire, Don Lafontaine, Daniel Perrier, Ron Pittaway, and Gordon Pringle. A special thank you also to Dan Brunton, Bruce Di Labio, Bernie Ladouceur and Brian Morin for reviewing this article for accuracy and to Fenja Brodo for editorial suggestions. Perhaps I have forgotten to mention other individuals who have also helped; to them I apologize.

For more information and maps to find the five public bird feeding stations, please see St-Hilaire 1999, or go to the Club Web address:

<http://www.achilles.net/ofnc/birding.htm>

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The Dragons of Morris Island

Chris Lewis and Bob Bracken

Drawings by Chris Lewis



Widow Skimmer (Libellula luctuosa)

After two of the coolest, wettest months of June and July in recent memory (with the most *unpleasant* weather occurring on the *weekends!*), the morning of Sunday, July 23, 2000 looked promising. Clear skies, sunshine, and, for once, a low probability of precipitation in the forecast indicated ideal conditions for “dragon-hunting”*but would the dragons be out there at Morris Island?*

Aside from being a beautiful natural area and one of the best places to find Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in the vicinity of Ottawa, the Morris Island Conservation Area has a special personal significance for us: It is the place where our own “quest for dragons” first began. On July 11, 1996, armed only with a single 12-inch-diameter insect net, a couple of “foreign” field guides (from Florida), and a brand-new booklet (*The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Provincial Park*, given to us that day by Michael Runtz), we headed out to Morris Island – and managed to capture and identify 17 species in one afternoon! We were hooked on dragons, big-time!

Since then, we have pursued the Odonates with a passion, exploring many new locations with specialized habitats, and delving into the “big books” (i.e., the scientific literature) to learn about and discover more of these fascinating insects. But we always keep returning to Morris Island, where we have now seen 66 species – impressive for a relatively small geographic area. The proximity to the Ottawa River and the influence of the Mississippi River, combined with the diversity of habitats, are what account for the richness of the Odonate fauna in this location. Therefore, what better place to introduce others to these spectacular insects?

Our common species are not really all that difficult to learn to identify (most are quite distinctive, even on the wing). Additionally, there is an immense “fun-factor” in the pursuit of dragons and damsels: The joy of being kids again – swinging nets at flying things, the sport of the chase, the thrill of the capture, the awe of holding living jewels in the hand, and the satisfaction of releasing the beasties unharmed.

To share this experience with others, that was our hope for July 23. The dragons of Morris Island did not let us down. Twenty-two enthusiastic participants were able to study and enjoy most of the 30 species observed and/or captured that day – an excellent turn-out by OFNC members, as well as by the Odonates!

We visited three sites on the island (the number of cars precluded stops at other more confined areas). The first stop on our itinerary was the conservation area proper, where we encountered Carey and Gwen Purdon, fellow dragon enthusiasts from Golden Lake. The Purdons had already been catching dragons and damsels for at least half an hour prior to our arrival, and had eight species nicely displayed in viewing containers, alive, for the group to examine. This turned out to be a great introduction to four of Ottawa’s nine Odonate families. Many thanks, Carey and Gwen!

Highlights from the woods and the causeway trail included a Common Green Darner (always an impressive creature, and easy to identify even in flight), numerous Powdered Dancers, and a good selection of some of our showiest dragonflies, the Skimmers. Possibly the best catch of the day was a Canada Darner, one of our largest and most powerful dragons, netted by Mackenzie Liska, the youngest OFNC participant on this trip. Mackenzie has been one of our most loyal (and successful) dragon-hunters on Club outings over the past three years, and she proved herself to be a star once again.

Our second stop was at the culvert of the Mississippi River Snye along Logger’s Way. This small area is always excellent for finding a wide variety of Odonates. Here we found 22 species and made some notable observations, such as four

NOMINATION FORM FOR AWARDS

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

In the appropriate spaces please submit the names of those you wish to nominate for **OFNC** awards and your reasons for each nomination. Also add your reasons for nominating. The more information you provide, the more effective will be the assessment of nominees. Attach additional information if the space is inadequate. Nominations may be made for more than one person. The Awards Committee may contact you for further information regarding any of your nominations.

Name of Nominator:_____

Address:_____

Telephone:_____

HONORARY MEMBER: This award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions by a member, or non-member, to Canadian natural history or to the successful operation of the Club. [*Usually people awarded an honorary membership have made extensive contributions over many years. At present honorary membership is limited to 25 people.*]

Nominee:_____

Reasons for nomination:_____

MEMBER OF THE YEAR: In recognition of the member judged to have contributed the most to the Club in the previous year. [*Members of the Executive are excluded from consideration.*]

Nominee:_____

Reasons for nomination:_____

GEORGE MCGEE SERVICE AWARD: In recognition of a member (or members) who has (have) contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club over several years. [*Members of the Executive are excluded from consideration.*]

Nominee:_____

Reasons for nomination:_____

ANNE HANES NATURAL HISTORY AWARD: In recognition of a member who, through independent study or investigation, has made a worthwhile contribution to our knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural history of the Ottawa Valley. [*The award is designed to recognize work that is done by amateur naturalists.*]

Nominee:_____

Reasons for nomination:_____

CONSERVATION AWARD - MEMBER: In recognition of an outstanding contribution by a member (or group of members) in the cause of natural history conservation in the Ottawa Valley, with particular emphasis on activities within the Ottawa District. [*The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower in Ottawa.*]

Nominee: _____

Reasons for nomination: _____

CONSERVATION AWARD - NON-MEMBER: In recognition of an outstanding contribution by a non-member (or group of non-members) in the cause of natural history conservation in the Ottawa Valley, with particular emphasis on activities within the Ottawa District. [*The Ottawa District is the area within 50 km of the Peace Tower in Ottawa.*]

Nominee: _____

Reasons for nomination: _____

See Trail & Landscape 33(4): 162-167 (1999), for more information on the awards.

Please return this nomination form to the address given
before December 15.

OFNC Awards Committee
P.O. Box 35069
Westgate P.O.
Ottawa, ON K1Z 1A2



species of Spreadwings, two of which (Swamp and Elegant Spreadwing) are rare and local; both were present in significant numbers. Also at this location, Violet Dancer, Skimming Bluet (uncommon and local), Eastern Pondhawk (common and colourful), and five of Ottawa's six *Libellula* Skimmers were easily found.



Slender Spreadwing (Lestes rectangularis)

Finally, on the east side of Morris Island, we visited the Mississippi River Snye in the village of Fitzroy Harbour. The clear rapid stream flowing through the forest makes this a picturesque spot, and quite user-friendly for dragon-hunting, for those who don't mind a bit of rock hopping. New species for the day included the stunningly iridescent Ebony Jewelwing. Both Lilypad Clubtail and Fawn Darner made brief appearances (they refused to be caught, and were unfortunately not seen by most of the group). A Least Clubtail was equally elusive, but provided some entertainment. A highlight of the trip was watching Carey, Bob and a few others, splashing around, trying to capture this tiny Gomphid.

In addition to the abundance of Odonates, Morris Island is a fantastic area for many other aspects of natural history. Some of us enjoyed the dozen or so Northern Water Snakes basking on the rocks along the causeway east of the parking lot. Several snakes were accommodating enough to offer very close views. Common Map Turtles were seen on old tree stumps in the pond on the south side of the causeway. Fish were also abundant and easily seen, although we were not appropriately equipped to find out if they could be as easily caught! However, we did catch and identify several butterflies, including Red Admiral, Compton Tortoiseshell, and American Lady. Other participants were interested in the great diversity of plant life.

The sun stayed with us for the entire day (need we say more?!) and, thanks to all of the good-natured and enthusiastic OFNC members who came out, it was a most successful field trip. Above all, it was *fun*! We hope you all enjoyed "The Dragons of Morris Island" as much as we did, and will continue to do so in the future.



Tule Bluet (Enallagma carunculatum)

Our Dragon List for the Day:

Broad-winged Damselfs (Family Calopterygidae)

Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*)

Spreadwings (Family Lestidae)

Emerald Spreadwing (*Lestes dryas*)

Elegant Spreadwing (*L. inaequalis*)

Slender Spreadwing (*L. rectangularis*)

Swamp Spreadwing (*L. vigilax*)

Pond Damselfs (Family Coenagrionidae)

Variable (Violet) Dancer (*Argia fumipennis violacea*)

Powdered Dancer (*A. moesta*)

Tule Bluet (*Enallagma carunculatum*)

Marsh Bluet (*E. ebrium*)

Stream Bluet (*E. exulans*)

Skimming Bluet (*E. geminatum*)

Orange Bluet (*E. signatum*)

Eastern Forktail (*Ischnura verticalis*)

Darners (Family Aeshnidae)

Canada Darner (*Aeshna canadensis*)

Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*)

Fawn Darner (*Boyeria vinosa*)

Clubtails (Family Gomphidae)

Lilypad Clubtail (*Arigomphus furcifer*)

Lancet Clubtail (*Gomphus exilis*)

Least Clubtail (*Stylogomphus albistylus*)

Emeralds (Family Corduliidae)

Common Baskettail (*Epiheca cynosura*)

Prince Baskettail (*E. princeps*)

Skimmers (Family Libellulidae)

Eastern Pondhawk (*Erythemis simplicicollis*)

Red-waisted Whiteface (*Leucorrhinia proxima*)

Slaty Skimmer (*Libellula incesta*)

Chalk-fronted Skimmer (*L. julia*)

Widow Skimmer (*L. luctuosa*)

Common Whitetail (*L. lydia*)

Twelve-spotted Skimmer (*L. pulchella*)

White-faced Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum obtrusum*)

Yellow-legged Meadowhawk (*S. vicinum*)

About Morris Island

The Morris Island Conservation Area is located along the Ottawa River just west of Fitzroy Harbour. Access to the main entrance and parking lot is off Logger's Way, which runs north off the Galetta Side Road (Regional Road 22). Currently managed by the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, Morris Island offers a good variety of open and forested trails through diverse habitats including wetland and upland areas, quiet bays, small off-shore islands, and scenic views of the Ottawa River. It is also a popular site for canoeing and fishing, and is open to the public year-round. Some facilities, however, are not open during the winter months.

REFERENCES USED DURING FIELD TRIP

For the participants, here again is a list of references used on our trip. For those who were unable to join us, most of these sources are readily available, and may be helpful to get you started on your own quest for dragons:

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(Plates from the following three volumes published by Toronto University Press.)

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Editor's note: Damsel hunters might enjoy using the following reference:

- Sankey, John. 2000. A Key to Adult Damselflies of the Ottawa District.
Trail & Landscape 34(1): 17-27. □

A Third Colony of Goat's Rue in the Ottawa District

Joyce M. Reddoch and Allan H. Reddoch

In the last issue of *Trail & Landscape*, Stephen Darbyshire and Christine Hanrahan described Goat's Rue (*Galega officinalis*) and their discovery of it at Petrie Island in 1998. They also reported Robert Hainault's 1973 collection of the same species from McArthur Road in Vanier.



In late June of 1999 we found another colony of this species, this one at the western edge of the Canotek industrial/commercial park in north Gloucester (45°27'12"N, 75°35'21"W), coincidentally half way between the Vanier and Petrie Island sites. After trying unsuccessfully to key the plant out, we turned to Albert Dugal for identification. Our collection will be submitted to the Agriculture Canada herbarium (DAO).

The colony of several hundred flowering plants grows in the clay soil along the edge of the parking lot behind the Medical-Surgical Eye Building at 879 Shefford Road. The habitat includes an old field component that is mowed from time to time and an overgrown pile of soil likely the result of construction work in the industrial park. Most of the plants have violet flowers although some have almost white ones. □

Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Pilot Project 2000

Christine Hanrahan



Juvenile Great Horned Owl. Drawing by Christine Lewis.

Birders who enjoyed the first Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA) 1981-1986, will be happy to learn that the atlas project is back! Starting in 2001, volunteers will again participate in a five-year project to collect detailed breeding evidence of birds in Ontario.

Pilot Project 2000

This past summer, pilot work took place in selected areas of Ontario to test different methodologies for collecting abundance data (i.e., number of birds for each species in a square). The work done this year will help the OBBA technical committee determine the best method for collecting abundance data when the project officially starts next year. Ottawa was assigned a 10-km by 10-km target square, 18VF22 Constance Lake/South March. We were asked to organize 2-hour maximum surveys in each of 25 1-km² cells (or squares) and do 100 point counts (50 on-road, 50 off-road). Volunteers tested both methodologies and were asked to provide Mike Cadman, the overall atlas coordinator,

with feedback at the end of the pilot project. The pilot work took place between late May and early July.

2-hour maximum survey

The 25 cells in which the 2-hour maximum surveys occurred were chosen randomly by staff working for Mike. We assigned one or more of these cells to volunteers and asked them to survey as much of it as possible within the 2-hour time frame, in order to provide a relatively accurate number of breeding birds in the cell. The primary appeal of this method was its flexibility in allowing volunteers to cover different habitats and count as many individual birds as possible. Well over half the participants preferred this method of abundance collection. Most of us felt, however, that 2 hours weren't really enough time to adequately cover a 1-km² cell, particularly if it was forested.

Point counts

Volunteers were asked to do 100 point counts, 50 on-road and 50 off-road. The on-road stations or stops were chosen randomly by Mike's staff, while we chose the off-road ones. Point counts required standing at each station for five minutes and counting all birds seen or heard. Some volunteers preferred point counts, especially the on-road ones, over maximum surveys because they were easier to do and avoided problems associated with access to private land. On the other hand, many participants felt that because they were not to stray from the designated route or the stations, this method didn't allow them to adequately count all birds in a given area. As well, unless one was an accomplished compass user, the off-road stations were difficult to locate accurately.

General atlassing

In addition to the above, volunteers were also asked to do some general surveying. This was the fun part of the project, the reward, if you will, for otherwise working within relatively restricted guidelines. People were encouraged to survey the entire 10 by 10-km square and find as many potential breeding species as possible. Evidence of breeding is divided into three levels: possible, probable and confirmed. A bird found in suitable habitat would indicate possible breeding. A pair of birds, a bird on territory, or birds nest-building would be construed as evidence of probable breeding. Finding a nest with eggs or young, or observing adults carrying food, would be considered confirmation of breeding. This is just a sample of the different types of breeding evidence to be incorporated into the atlas. A master list of all species observed in the target square was compiled and a summary of the results follows.

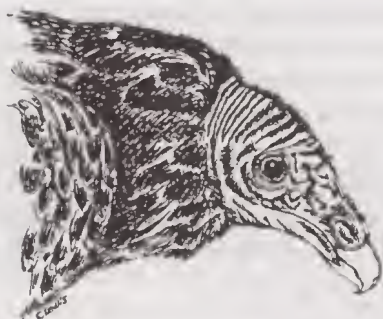
Summary

We were able to complete all 100 point counts and 24 out of the 25 cells assigned. Given the scramble to find volunteers at such short notice, we were very

pleased with the results. Most volunteers enjoyed the exercise and some found it added a refreshing twist to regular birding.

Summary of bird observations

No rarities were found in our target square during the course of the project, but 117 species were observed. Perhaps the most interesting birds were Black-backed Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo and Swainson's Thrush. All these birds were found in suitable habitat, yet none of these species was found in this square during the last atlas survey.



Turkey Vulture. Drawing by Chris Lewis

Also new to the square were Turkey Vultures, observed in four different locations. Jonathan Allison found a nest just east of our area in an old log cabin. Previously, Turkey Vultures were most commonly found west of Kanata.

Comparisons such as these, that is, the ability to chart changes in range and population of breeding species, make the prospect of working on the upcoming atlas so exciting.

As for the most common birds in the square, depending on habitat, they included Eastern Wood-pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and American Goldfinch.

Volunteers in the Pilot Project

This could not have been done without the generous assistance of the participants in this pilot project. During an amazingly wet summer season, they sloshed their way through fields and woods in the early hours of the morning and did a remarkable job of collecting data. To the following volunteers, a warm and heartfelt thank you: Ken Allison, Linda and Cliff Bennett, Peter Blancher, David Britton, Emily Burton, Georgina Doe, Erica Dunn, Charles Francis, Christine Hanrahan, Tom Hanrahan, Chris Harris, Gwen and Roy Jenkins, Bev McBride, Bev Peterkin, Frank Pope, Bev Scott, and Dave Smythe. Chris Harris deserves special recognition and a big thank-you for covering five cells. This was no easy task given that he had to dodge days of rainstorms and yet he found time to go out all those many mornings.

Heading into 2001 – volunteers needed!

Although we still don't know the precise geographic area that we will be asked

to survey for the atlas, we are reasonably certain that it will be close to that of the first atlas. If so, it will be large! The last time, we were responsible for covering 76 10-km², stretching from Casselman in the east, to the Renfrew-Cobden area in the west, and southwards in a line from Berwick to Flower Station. We needed a lot of volunteers then and we will need as many this time around.

So, what is required of you if you do offer to help? Will you be tied to the project for the entire five years?

The answer to the last question is 'No.' What is required is a willingness to assume responsibility for one 10 by 10-km square somewhere within our region. A minimum of 20 hours of "atlassing" will be needed, but that can be done any time during a breeding season over the 5-year period. One may do five hours a year, or perhaps do it all in one year and take on another square later. Participants will be asked to cover as much of an assigned square as possible, searching for breeding evidence. A 10-km by 10-km square is big. Data forms, an instruction booklet, and lots of detailed information will be given to participants. Possibly maps will be provided (but don't hold us to that yet!). Collecting abundance data will be essential to the atlas this time around, but it probably won't be mandatory. (We were weak in this area previously.)

Above all, I can guarantee that it will be fun! This will be an opportunity to go birding in areas you may not have explored, or perhaps not explored in detail. Finding new information about breeding birds is also very rewarding. While you are birding you will also be contributing valuable information that will allow us to expand our knowledge of the breeding birds of this province.

The Ottawa Region will be managed by a committee consisting of me (Christine Hanrahan) as Regional Coordinator, along with Paul Jones, who was on the previous atlas committee with me, and Chris Harris, a very accomplished and knowledgeable birder. We are planning a meeting at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretive Centre for Wednesday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas in more detail, to sign up volunteers, and to answer your questions about this project.

If you would like more information or want to volunteer for next year, please feel free to contact me at 798-1620 or by e-mail at vanessa@magma.ca. □

Peregrine Falcon Watch, June 16-30, 2000

Eve Ticknor, Watch Coordinator

Every year brings something different in our Watch and this year was no exception. The length of time was shorter, but the intensity was no less for that. The weather was not too helpful. Many of the shifts were done in the cold, with much wind and rain, and rain, and rain..... We learned not to pay attention to the forecasts, especially when we heard "occasional showers" while we were being drenched!

Wouldn't you know, we had a schedule in place and 'Freedom,' our oldest Peregrine Falcon chicklet, decided to start us earlier, maybe to see if we were on the ball. I received a call at work - emergency! (Thankfully the teachers and Vice-Principal of Mary Honeywell PS, Barrhaven, let me leave early from work.) Bob Boisvert, a volunteer observer, had seen 'Freedom' launch himself from the ledge (on the Crowne Plaza Hotel, downtown Ottawa) and run into trouble. While I was driving downtown and madly using my cell phone (which I said I'd never do) to rally Melanie Moore and Remy Poulin, our scheduling coordinators, Bob had rescued our little one and had him ready for me as I arrived. I had already decided to bring him to Dr. Robin Roscoe of Lynnwood Animal Hospital, just to be sure he was OK. His feather development was almost complete for his age, and he was raring to go (we have scars to prove it). Upon my return to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, several volunteers were in place to watch as I placed 'Freedom' back on his ledge. His parents were waiting for us. Remy was sure that the wing of the adult bird ('Connor') almost struck me! The rest of the evening was quiet, thankfully.

It took a few days before 'Horizon' and 'Connor', our ever-diligent parent birds, were ready to tolerate any of our volunteers on the roof of the Constitution Square. (Just ask Rosanne Bishop how close 'Connor' came to my fleeing back!) John Sullivan didn't fare much better when he tried the next afternoon. Nick Zeis seemed to have the magic touch, though not the first time.

Many people stopped for a look through the spotting scope, or for an update on the chicklets' progress. Guests at the Crowne Plaza Hotel would come over to find out why we were looking at their rooms.

Other activities going on while we were on shifts, such as very low-flying search and rescue planes, hot-air balloons and a Pow Wow at LeBreton Flats, entertained us but didn't seem to bother our peregrine family.

'Horizon' gave us a scare one day by exhibiting strange behaviour, almost colliding several times with the eastern and southern walls of Tower C, Place de Ville, out of sight of her chicklets. 'Connor' showed signs of worry, too, as he constantly tried to insert himself between his mate and the walls of these buildings. After conferring with experts, and based on my own observations over the past four years, we came to the conclusion that 'Horizon' was undergoing a short-term reaction to poisoning, probably due to ingesting a toxic bird. Thank goodness she was back to her own self by the next day.

'Horizon' then started giving her chicks flying lessons, by first teasing them with 'fly-bys' of food, and then by eating on the rooftop across and in full view of them. Their little beaks seemed to hang open in surprise. This began to elicit more movement from all of the young.

'Zephyr', our youngest chicklet, had his turn at being rescued (from the Glue Pot Pub) by Melanie Moore. She also decided to take this young bird to Dr. Roscoe who confirmed the bird to be fine, although some of his left wing feathers were quite ruffled. One of the other chicklets, probably 'Freedom,' spent the night on a window ledge of the Copeland building in the pouring rain!

The next day 'Windracer,' the 3rd chicklet, had his turn at being rescued, but he didn't get a visit to our favourite vet. Later that day, 'Zephyr' landed on the terrace attached to the Crowne Plaza Hotel. He, too, was rescued and carried upstairs once again.

By now our chicklets were moving around with much more confidence, often spending time atop the Mariott Hotel, as well as on other nearby high rises. These young birds were exhibiting more skills at an earlier age than last year's chicklets did during the first couple of weeks after hatching. The food fed to those in a captive breeding program is healthy, but not quite the same as the variety caught in the wild. This phenomenon has been noticed elsewhere on our continent.

Watching the young during their aerial lessons is always fascinating. One chicklet, atop an antenna, wasn't paying attention to his mother and she knocked him off his perch. He paid attention after that! We watched food transfers and later, food drops from adult to young, and then a kill made by 'Connor.' We once saw the parents chasing off a gull, and a Great Blue Heron another time. Melanie had her first lesson of avian sunbathing, to the chuckles of staff up on the Mariott! Yes, birds do spread themselves out in the sun.

Unfortunately June 27th was a very sad day for our volunteers. Young 'Windracer' hit a window at 240 Sparks and died instantly. Strong gusts of wind could have been a factor, as he just missed clearing the top of the building. Nathaleigh McKenna-Rochon wrote a beautiful poem for him and we put it up on the wall by us, along with his photo and a vase of roses. Later that evening we were privileged to see the best flying exhibition ever, by his two brothers – barrel-rolling, talon-tag, soaring to great heights, and racing in and out between buildings. It was as if they were doing this for us and for 'Windracer.' Many tears were shed that evening. Much later I thought of my camera.

The next day I had to bring all our radios back to the rental company for re-programming because of too much interference from a nearby radio broadcasting station and other businesses. Returning to downtown, I saw a chicklet chasing a pigeon, unsuccessfully.

'Freedom' and 'Zephyr' were doing so well that the decision was made to end the watch on June 30th. We had done our job well and couldn't justify more scheduled hours of watching the young birds. They still had to learn to hunt successfully, but we couldn't be sitting around waiting in case we might be needed. We would have to depend on the public to notify us should something happen to one of the falcons. Little did we know that 'Zephyr' would be found dead on the 20th of July from, as of now, unknown causes.

A great concern was to break up the reflective nature of the all-glass walls of the C D Howe Building, 240 Sparks, by the placement of enough streamers. Some streamers were moved to the Queen Street side of the building by Daryl Seip, of MNR, and Kathy Krywicki and Chris Kelly, two of our volunteers. Further improvements are being worked on for next year.

Thank you to

- * the staff of the Constitution Square for helping us in many ways;
- * the staff of the Crowne Plaza Hotel for helping us bring errant chicklets back to their aerie, and for providing emergency parking;
- * Chris MacMurray and Jennifer McCue of the Marriott Hotel for allowing volunteers into the restaurant to search out lost chicklets;
- * Dave and Gilles of Canadian Tire for providing parking for the coordinators;
- * the staff at the CD Howe Building, 240 Sparks St., for allowing us on the roof to hang streamers;
- * Dr. Robin Roscoe and staff, Lynnwood Animal Hospital, for cheerfully checking out two of our screaming chicklets;
- * Sandy Garland, OFNC webmaster (webmistress?);
- * Dr. Paul Gully, Pud Hunter (MNR) and Mark Nash (CPF) for help in banding our triplets;
- * Andre Marcel of Metrolert for putting extra voicemail functions on our two pagers;

- * Andre of Elypse for reprogramming our radios;
- * Daryl Seip (MNR) for his valued advice and help;
- * Shaun Thompson and Christie Curley (MNR) for having the confidence in us to do this job, and special thanks to Christie for playing the "predator" during the banding session;
- * Albert House for providing occasional parking.

Melanie Moore and Remy Poulin were valuable assistants, being totally responsible for all the scheduling and rescheduling inherent to the position of Volunteer Coordinators. Unbelievably, they both have volunteered to do the same next year!

Each of the following people listed below participated on shifts for the 2000 Watch. Each one, no matter how few or many hours, deserves a star, for each contributed to the success of this Peregrine Falcon Watch 2000. Volunteers for 20 to 40 hours are designated below by two stars; three stars mark 40 to 60 hours; four stars are for 60 to 100 hours and five stars go to those who put in over 100 volunteer hours. OFNC members are in bold.

*Allison, Ken
 *Birkett, Pamela
 **Bishop, Rosanne
 *Bonneville, Paule
 * Bowker, Art
 **Burgess, Margaret
 *Burgess, David
 *Curtis, Virginia
 *Daniels, Doug
 *Delroy, Carol
 *Duggan, Gayle
 **Farkas, Stephen
 *Feurer, Christina
 *Frappier, Michelle
 *Haas, Claire
 **Hafner, Klaus
 *Harding, Grant
 Hawkins, Jill
 ***Hickman, Mark
 *Higgins, Terry
 *Hoffe, Ron

*Jeffrey, Ian
 ****Kelly, Chris
 *Kingsbury, Marylou
 *Kingsbury, Warren
 *Koktan, Robert
 *Krywicki, Kathy
 **Ladouceur, Bernie
 *Lafleur, Bob
 *Lartigue, Gabriella
 *Loneragan, Michele
 ***Maillard, Phil
 *McLean, Gordon
 *McLean, Maxine
 *Montoya, Lorraine
 *****Moore, Melanie
 *Moore, Dave
 *Moreau, Gib
 *Moskaluk, Carol
 **O'Neil, Jim
 *Palmer, Karen
 *Peterkin, Bev

*Pope, Frank
 **Poulin, Remy
 *Roach, Bob
 *Roach, Hayley
 *Roach, Sarah
 *Sander-Regier, Renata
 *Schnupp, Randy
 *Selby, Colin
 *Sirois, Langis
 **Smythe, Dave
 *Spencer, Carrie
 *Sullivan, John
 *Sylvester, Mary
 *****Ticknor, Eve
 **Ticknor, Rick
 *Vautour, Gilles
 *Woods, Ursula
 *Woods, Peter
 *Woods, Dawn
 *Woolcott, Mindy
 *Wyber, Leah
 **Zeis, Nick

Claire Boyer, Arlene Williams and Bob Boisvert put in much unrecorded time spotting from their lofty offices. Nathaleigh McKenna-Rochon made calls, wrote the poem commemorating 'Windracer', and checked in daily on shift.

Well done to all our volunteers! We have made new friends, renewed friendships, met interesting people, and spread a little more awareness around for these wonderful birds and the danger they are in. Will the time ever come when they won't need our help?

An addendum:

On Tuesday, Aug 29th, 2000, Eve Ticknor was presented with the **Elizabeth LeGeyt Award** by Kathy Nihei of the Wild Bird Care Centre, Elizabeth LeGeyt and Heather Bishop of the Ottawa Citizen. This award was made "In recognition of outstanding contribution to public awareness and care of wild birds." ❧



Volunteer Leaders Wanted at the CMN!

The Canadian Museum of Nature is looking for English or French speaking individuals to join its dynamic team of School Programme volunteers.

For more than 20 years volunteers at the Canadian Museum of Nature have helped introduce school children to the wonders of nature. Each year, between September and April, volunteers deliver curriculum-based Nature Workshops to hundreds of school children.

Volunteers are asked to commit to half a day a week between Tuesday and Friday, plus attend training sessions. If you love nature and love working with children, getting involved is only natural!

To find out more about volunteer opportunities and benefits with the school groups programme at the Canadian Museum of Nature, please call Katja Rodriguez at (613) 566-4261. ❧

Notice: Bird Counts Planned for the Ottawa-Hull District

The 2000 Ottawa-Hull Late Fall Bird Count is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, 21 October. The count area will be the Ottawa District (50 km radius from the Peace Tower). This area is divided into four sectors by the Ottawa, Gatineau and Rideau Rivers. There are plenty of excellent birding spots to choose from and all birders of every skill level are welcome. There will be a reception at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden afterwards.

If you are interested in participating in the count, please contact either the Quebec coordinator Daniel St-Hilaire at 776-0860 or the Ontario coordinator Eve Ticknor at 737-7551.

The 2000 Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 17th. Members interested in participating should contact the coordinator Daniel St-Hilaire at 776-0860. He will provide information on action time, sectors where counts will be made, and the sector leaders. Feeder watchers in the Ottawa area should call in information to Bev Scott at 599-9330, and feeder watchers in Quebec should call in their information to Daniel St-Hilaire at the number above.

At 4:00 p.m., after the count, there will be a meeting of all interested people involved. We will have a meal, review the events of the day, and compile an official summary of numbers and species of birds. Participants will be informed by the section leaders of the location for this get-together.

The Dunrobin Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday, 30 December. Prospective participants and feeder watchers in the Dunrobin area should contact Bruce Di Labio at 839-4395.

The Pakenham-Arncliffe Christmas Bird Count is on Tuesday, 26 December. Interested people should contact Mike Runtz at 1-623-9106.

The figures from these counts will be presented as official reports to the National Audubon Society. As previously, participants will be asked to pay a fee of \$5. □

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❧

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information,
call the Club number (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to E.M. Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0P7, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.*

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Club members must be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access for Club functions after regular museum hours.*

BIRD STATUS LINE: *Phone 860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings call Michael Tate at 825-1231. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

Le Club des Omithologues de l'Outaouais has a similar service, in French, run by Daniel St-Hilaire at 778-3413 and the Bird Status Line is 778-0737.

Saturday
7 October
8:30 a.m.

GENERAL INTEREST WALK TO THE STONY SWAMP AREA

Leaders: Philip Martin and Roy John

Meet: Lincoln Heights Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

This will be a general interest walk to identify trees with characteristic fall colour and any available fauna.

Bring a lunch for this half-day outing.

Sunday
15 October
8:00 a.m.

FALL BIRDS AND LATE MIGRANTS

Leader: Ray Holland

Meet: Lincoln Heights Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond Road at Assaly Road.

Participants will visit several locales along the Ottawa River, starting with the Britannia Filtration Plant, on this half-day outing to observe waterfowl and other migrating species. Bring a snack and a warm drink.

Saturday
21 October
9:00 a.m.
to
3:00 p.m.

GEOLOGY WALK: CARBONATE STRATIGRAPHY

Leaders: Geoff Burbidge and Bruce Summers

Meet: Supreme Court, front entrance, Wellington Street at Kent Street.

Please be prepared to offer your car to other participants or carpool with a friend since there is limited parking at our various stops.

You'll never look at a limestone outcrop the same way again! This year we will take a closer look at some of the great limestone exposures in and around Ottawa. Not only will we see the usual fossils, and lots of them, but we will look closely for scratches and traces of trilobites and other mysterious, long-extinct animals. We will try to put you in the shoes of a "stratigrapher," that is, a geologist who tries to link up distinctive sedimentary beds and formations across entire ancient ocean basins. And if you don't go for that, just lie back and enjoy the sun on some of the Ordovician's best white sand beaches. We'll take you there! Please bring a lunch and wear sturdy shoes.

Saturday
4 November
9:00 a.m.

LATE FALL RAMBLE IN GATINEAU PARK

Leader: Philip Martin

Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington at Kent Street.

In spite of the late season there can be a surprising number of plants and animals to see in Gatineau Park. Every year we explore one of the many interesting areas in this large nature reserve. Bring a lunch and dress warmly for this half-day outing.

Sunday

12 November

8:00 a.m.

EARLY WINTER BIRDS

Leader: Tony Beck

Meet: Lincoln Heights Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the mall parking lot, junction of Richmond Road and Assaly Road.

On this half-day outing we should be able to see some of the remaining fall migrants as well as some of the birds that stay in the Ottawa District over the winter season. Bring a snack and a warm drink, and wear suitable clothing.

Tuesday

14 November

8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

HYBRIDIZING EXOTIC ORCHIDS

IN THE OTTAWA AREA: AN INTRODUCTION TO MY MEXICAN GRAND CHILDREN

Speaker: Bill Arthurs

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

This talk will include a discussion of the differences and similarities between tropical epiphytes and our native terrestrial orchids, including the hybridization process involved in creating new varieties. A hybrid that Bill created and registered will be used as an example.

Bill Arthurs is an amateur botanist and past member of the OFNC Council, and he leads annual fern identification walks. He is also a past president of the Ottawa Orchid Society and a founding member of the Canadian Orchid Congress.

Friday

24 November

2:00 p.m.

to

4:00 p.m.

VISIT TO THE CANADIAN NATIONAL COLLECTION OF INSECTS

Leader: Dr. Henri Goulet

Meet: Philip Martin in the foyer of the Neatby Building, 960 Carling Avenue (nearly opposite and east of the the Civic Hospital).

This is an excellent opportunity to see a display of colourful insects of various shapes and sizes from all over the world.

This famous Collection serves as a reference for taxonomists and other researchers and is replete with fascinating information. The tour will be limited to 12 participants.

Please register before November 21 at the Club number (722-3050).

Sunday
10 December
8:00 a.m.

WINTER BIRDS

Leader: Jim Harris

Meet: Lincoln Heights Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the mall parking lot, junction of Richmond Road and Assaly Road.

A further opportunity to view those birds that have become adapted to our cold winter. Bring a snack and drink, and dress warmly for this half-day outing.

Tuesday
12 December
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

WHAT IS THAT BUTTERFLY DOING ANYWAY?

Speaker: Peter Hall

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

Butterfly behaviour (or seeming misbehaviour) is the focus of this evening's presentation. Peter Hall, co-author of the *Butterflies of Canada*, will show slides of butterflies acting out their complicated lives. This talk and Peter's slides are the fruits of many years of observing and photographing butterflies.

Sunday
7 January

WINTER BIRDING AT THE CORNWALL POWER DAM

Leader: Bernie Ladouceur

Meet: Arrangements will be made after registration.

This full-day outing should allow us to see overwintering gulls, waterfowl and seasonal species frequenting the Moses-Saunders Power Dam. It is most important to bring your passport or American Visa, because entry to the birding area is only possible now from the American side of the border. Bring a lunch, a warm drink and heavy winter clothing. Transportation will be by private car.

PLEASE REGISTER BY JANUARY 1 AT THE CLUB NUMBER (722-3050) so that you can be notified if alternate arrangements need to be made.

Tuesday
9 January
7:30 p.m.

OFNC 122nd ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

The Council for 2001 will be elected at this meeting and a brief review of the activities during 2000 will be given, as well as a statement of the Club's finances. Following this, the Birds Committee will make an interesting presentation about their activities.

Saturday
13 January
1:00 p.m.
to
5:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING, A WORKSHOP

Leader: Roy John

Meet: Room 17, Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

At this workshop one will learn some of the basic strategies for observing birds in the field. This session will be based on material used in the highly successful BirdQuest program. There is a modest charge (\$10 or less) to cover the cost of the handouts. PLEASE CALL THE CLUB NUMBER (722-3050), before January 1, 2001, to indicate your interest, so we can have an idea of the potential numbers. You are welcome to bring non-Club members to this workshop. Further details will be given to registrants later.

SPRING EXCURSION TO POINT PELEE

The Club is planning its biennial four-day bus excursion to coincide with the peak of spring bird migration to this protected area. This trip is tentatively scheduled for May 10-13, 2001, and plans will proceed if there is a sufficient and early response from the membership. Accommodation has been reserved for 42 people. If interested, please call the Club number (722-3050 after 10:00 a.m.) as soon as possible. Full details of the itinerary and the cost will appear in the January-March issue of *T&L*.

DEADLINE: *Material intended for the January-March 2001 issue must be in the editor's hands by November 20, 2000. Mail your manuscripts to:*

Fenja Brodo, Editor, Trail & Landscape, 28 Benson Street, Nepean, Ontario, K2E 5J5
H: (613) 723-2054 Fax: (613) 364-4027 e-mail: fbrodo@cyberus.ca

ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations recently? Is there a colony of rare plants or a nesting site that needs protection? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*. We can accept e-mail, IBM-compatible diskettes, or submissions in traditional form—typed, written, printed or painted!

URL of our site:

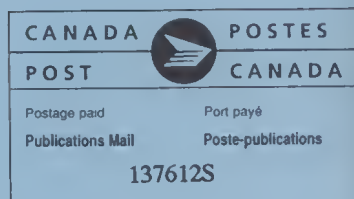
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MYSTERIES OF A MASTODON GRAVEYARD

PUBLIC LECTURE AND SLIDE PRESENTATION

Dr. John Chiment, Vertebrate Paleontologist
Jim Sherpa, Mastodon Curator and Matrix Project Coordinator,
Cornell University and the Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca, New York

Saturday Morning ~ November 18, 2000, 10:30 to 12:00
Kemptville College Auditorium, Parish Building

Share the exciting experience of excavating not one but **two Mastodon burial sites** in New York State with Dr. Chiment, a dynamic speaker and Jim Sherpa, leader of the project team undertaking the actual excavation. Together they will take us through the exhilarating experience of discovering the almost intact skeleton of a 12,000 year-old Mastodon, one of North America's Ice Age 'Elephant' species. **Touch real Mastodon bones and see other fascinating artifacts found at the excavation sites.** The Mastodon gravesite project is soon to be featured in a documentary special on the Discovery Channel but you can have a sneak peak first!

Admission: General public - \$5, Museum members and children under 12 - \$3.

PALEONTOLOGY WORKSHOP

Saturday Afternoon ~ November 18, 2000, 2:00 to 4:00
Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum, Northside Plaza - 215 Sanders St., Kemptville

When the Mastodons were unearthed, tons of surrounding bog material were also collected to be searched for clues to the life history of these extinct Ice Age creatures. **The Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum (EOBM) has acquired 50 pounds of this "Mastodon Matter" and you can help us sort through it.** Become a paleontologist for a day; experience first-hand the wonders of discovery with the help of the Paleontological Research Institution's experts, John Chiment and Jim Sherpa. You may find the remains of trees and plants, small animals and insects, land snails and shells, twigs actually chewed by the Mastodon or even splinters of Mastodon bones! As well, you will have the opportunity to compare the bones of our largest contemporary living mammal, the Moose, with the bones of the Mastodon, one of our largest extinct mammals. This is an experience not to be missed!

Admission: General Public - \$5, Museum members and children under 12 - \$3.

A SPECIAL DAY BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE EASTERN ONTARIO BIODIVERSITY MUSEUM
613 - 258 - 3415 museum@eobm.ca

